exports and policies to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus, measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's exports.

**Indo-EU Free Trade Agreement**

1940. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested setting up of a joint study group to look into the feasibility of Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union;

(b) whether this move is aimed at enhancing and deepening India's trade relations with the EU;

(c) if so, whether any concrete agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) It is learnt from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) that in a recent press release it has stated that in order to enhance and deepen India's trade relations with the European Union, it is in favour of setting up of a joint study group to look into the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between the two sides.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Trade pact with Singapore**

1941. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: